GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1259
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2001
NON POSSESSION OF RATION CARDS BY BPL
KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether several families below poverty line category do not have ration cards;

(b) if so, the percentage thereof; and

(c) if so, how the benefits of targeted public distribution system will reach them?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHAUHAN)

(a),(b) & (c) : The number of BPL families in the country on the basis of the populationprojections of the Registrar General as on 1.3.2000 is 6.52 crores. Keeping in view the large number of BPL families in the country, the possibility of omission of some of the deserving families from lists of BPL beneficiaries and issue of ration cards to them in the States/UTs cannot be ruled out.

Identification of beneficiaries namely the population living below poverty line (BPL)is one of the most important features of TPDS which is carried out by States/UTs. Under the guidelines for implementation of TPDSthe States/UTs have been asked to include the really poor and vulnerable sections of the society under the BPL category and actively involve the Gram Sabhas and Gram Panchayats in the identification process. The State Governments/UTs have been asked to conduct checking of ration cards on regular intervals so that the poor and needy are not deprived of the benefits under the TPDS.